

Dear Friend,

A wonderful opportunity is being given to the ladies of Alabama. We are in the process of finalizing the last few touches on the new china pattern for the Governor's Mansion—the people's home. It is a custom made pattern by Lenox featuring the state's Coat of Arms.

You have the option of purchasing a seven piece place setting in honor or memory of a loved one in your life. It may be a mother, a daughter, a sister, or a friend. The woman you have selected will have her name printed on the back of the dinner plate along with the year 2006. This lovely pattern will be used in the Governor's Mansion for state dinners and events. There will be an unveiling ceremony on Sunday, May 7, 2006, the week before Mother's Day for all to view the pattern.

The place setting of Lenox china is bordered with a wide gold rim. Inside the rim are 22 gold stars noting Alabama as the 22nd state to join the United States. The state Coat of Arms is positioned on each piece of china. The Coat of Arms consists of a shield on which appears the emblems of the five governments that have held sovereignty over Alabama. The flags of Spain, France, Great Britain, and the Confederacy are bound by the flag and shield of the United States. The shield is supported on either side by bald eagles, symbolic of courage. The crest is a model of the ship, the Baldine, that Iberville and Bienville sailed from France to settle a colony near present day Mobile. The motto beneath the shield is "Audemus jura nostra defendere" meaning "We dare defend our rights".

What a lasting tribute to the special women in your life and to the one's that have touched your life. I hope that you will join me in honoring the countless number of Alabama women that make Alabama "Home Sweet Home".

Fondly,

*Patsy Riley
First Lady of Alabama*